THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only 10 per cent of the contract amount has been paid to M|s MAN and W.M.I. as provided in the respective contracts during 1986-87. The advance paid to M|s MAN amounts to DM 5.015 Million.

(c) The advance has been paid against bank guarantee for equivalent amount.

(d) The contract is for the design engineering manufacture, supply, erection, supervision, testing and commissioning of 2 No. of 20,000 T|Hr. Speaders. The Indian supplies are to be made by WMI, Bombay and design engineering and imported supplies by M|s MAN of West Germany.

Second mine expansion project of NLC

98. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no progress has been achieved during the last eight months in the execution of second mine expansion project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to acquire only approved equipments as suggested by Technical Consultants of Neyveli Lignite Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While finalising purchase proposals the suggestions of Technical Consultants have been taken into consideration. Before commencement of manufacture of components, the drawings are being checked and approved by NLC along with the Consultant.

Power Unit Managements

99. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power units in the country are badly managed due to which there is steep shortfall in the production of power in the country; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to manage the existing power units effectively and to boost the production of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) During 1986-87, total power generation in the country was only 1.3 per cent less than the target mainly due to less hydel generation on account of low reservoir levels. The thermal generation was more than the target. There are some stations where there has been a shortfall in production *vis-a-vis* the target. However, management is only one of the factors on which the production of power at a station depends along with various other factors such as age of equipment, quality of equipment, availability of trained personnel and coal quality.

(b) For increasing the generation from the existing power units, various steps have been taken which include implementation of a centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation programme of some existing thermal power stations, training of operation and maintenance personnel, improvement in coal quality, issuing various guidelines to the State Authorities for introducing modern methods and techniques for maintenance and management of power stations. Need for expeditious completion of on-going projects is also being constantly emphasised on the State Authorities.